

The Greenfield Community College NEWSLETTER

September-October 1989

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

6-ART EXHIBIT: The Wolf Transformation Dream, Monoprints by Ann Kremers, will be on display in South Gallery through Sept. 28.

OCTOBER

18-WORKSHOP: for teachers and staff from area school systems, sponsored by the Bereavement Support Group and the Franklin-Hampshire Guidance Association, 12-4 p.m., College lecture hall. For info, call Larry Dean at 774-3131.

18-VALLEY ENVIRONMENTS—A MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION: Nature photographer John Green will give a multi-media presentation on the natural world, including environments of the Pioneer Valley at 12 noon. Location to be announced; free and open to the public. The first of the Pioneer Valley Institute Lecture Series.

26-GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL DINNER, 6 p.m. College Cafeteria.



Pioneer Valley Institute:

New office will promote local history and culture

President Katherine H. Sloan this summer officially announced the formation of the Pioneer Valley Institute, an organization that will work with local civic and arts groups and historical societies to foster a greater understanding of the history, traditions and culture of the Pioneer Valley.

Louise Minks, an artist and freelance writer from Leverett, will direct the institute, and work to organize events and provide a liaison between the college and community groups. Minks has worked on several proj-

ects for the college, including the Celebration of Growing Older, a series of events held at the college and throughout the community to address issues of aging in Franklin County.

The institute will provide resources and support to bring together diverse groups for programs and events relating to the Pioneer Valley. This summer, the institute sponsored the "Summer Sampler," a collaborative program that combined the resources of the Memorial Hall Museum in

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Yes, folks, this is a *math* class!

Twenty-five students balance precariously on a log, trying to move one student from end to end without anyone falling off. In loud voices they share their proposals and strategies, searching together for solutions.

The noisy exchange is no extra-curricular fun and games, but part of an experimental program in the math department at GCC. Yes folks, this is a math class.

The goal of the developmental math program designed by GCC math teachers Linda Cavanaugh, Lynn Benander and Ira Rubenzahl is to inject a measure of confidence building, physical problem-solving and fun into an area that many students try to avoid their entire academic lives.

"Most basic math students have had negative experiences with mathematics, and by the time they get to college, they're totally turned off," says Cavanaugh. By

making problem solving into a physical activity, the GCC program helps students understand that mathematics is not some esoteric field of study, but something they use, consciously or not, in their everyday lives.

The group problem solving program involves two types of exercises: group building and initiative problems. The group building exercises are designed to help class members get to know one another, to foster communication among class members, and to make abstract math problems physical.

Each class spends two class periods doing group problem-solving exercises during the second week of the course, providing an early opportunity for group building. When possible, the classes are held outside.

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Deerfield, with the Division of Continuing Education at GCC. Under the two week program, third, fourth and fifth grade students spent their mornings at Memorial Hall learning about arts, crafts, history and other subjects, and their afternoon at GCC, using the Project TEME lab and other college facilities.

"The Summer Sampler program is a good example of where I see other institute activities going," said Sloan. "We hope to inspire and support other groups who may want to put on events and programs, but who need support services of some kind. I see the institute as providing a new and creative link between the college and the community."

This fall, the institute will offer five half-day workshops through the Division of Continuing Education, including a walking tour of Greenfield, a visit to the area's small art museums, a visit to the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, a tour of the Quabbin, and an archeological tour of Franklin County.

The first in a series of lectures will be held Wednesday, October 18, when naturalist and photographer John Green gives a multi-media presentation on the natural environment.

For a brochure about the institute or for more information, contact Minks through the President's Office at ext. 207.

STAFF

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Memories of MacLeish

(The Friends of Archibald MacLeish at Greenfield Community College work to organize seminars and other events to honor the poet and statesman who lived in Conway. The group will be working with the Pioneer Valley Institute on programs during the school year. As an introduction, we are publishing a recollection of MacLeish by his granddaughter, Ellen MacLeish Zale, who is president of the Friends of Archibald MacLeish.)

My family came to Uphill Farm in Conway every summer of my childhood, and the visit was the zenith of summer for my siblings and me. My father was my grandparents' eldest child, and as such was the expected heir of their beloved land and house. His death from bone cancer in 1977 was a blow to his parents, then in their eighties. Happily for the rest of the family, though, Adie and Archie lived on in their house and continued to provide a constant in our lives.

Upon our arrival in the house each summer, we would be greeted by one or both grandparents and told which room we would be sleeping in. My sister and I would always be in the large middle bedroom, wallpapered with pale blue cabbage roses. Our room overlooked the grass terrace where the grownups would gather before or after dinner, and I would drift happily off to sleep listening to their voices. My grandmother had always placed a vase of fresh flowers in our room, which seemed to me to perfectly complete our welcome.

When we woke in the morning, we would come downstairs and ask the cook for breakfast. We were supposed to turn down our beds to air them out (in spite of my protestation to my grandmother: "But I'm clean!"), and then make them after breakfast. Sometimes my mother and grandmother would sit with us at the table and plan the day, my mother running errands, my grandmother orchestrating people and meals. Often Adie had already been at work in her garden and had brought baskets of flowers to the sink in her garden room, to be arranged and placed throughout the house later.

As young children in their house, we knew we had to conduct ourselves according to my grandparents' high standards—and most of the time we did. We were not allowed to eat dinner with the grownups until we were deemed sufficiently civilized. We had to know how to serve ourselves from the fragrant platters held by the maid, which piece of silverware to use, and what to do with a fingerbowl. For picky eaters like my brother and myself, admission to the adult table was delayed even longer. Now that I am the mother of young children, I have some appreciation of my mother's education and shepherding of her four offspring.

Looking back, it seems that most of my recollections of Uphill Farm are evoked by smells: Adie's sweet smell, changed by weeding the garden or a bath and evening clothes; Archie's masculine smell, intensified by working in his vegetable garden; the gardens themselves; the house with sweet flowers, potpourri, and savory meals that always seemed to be in the making.

On rainy days we could explore the attic, a heavenly spot for children, with seemingly endless drawers, trunks, cupboards, and hatboxes, all redolent of cedar, mothballs, snatches of perfume, and the centuries-old timbers of the house itself. Outside we could catch whiffs of the cattle kept by neighboring farmers, and the hot sun would make the pines, hay, yews and the earth itself intoxicate us with fragrance. Sitting down to a meal was another sensory experience—homemade breads, vegetables gathered that morning, mashed potatoes sprinkled with dill, blueberries from the bushes that bordered the driveway, and homemade cakes and cookies. It seemed unfair to me that my grandmother, who was eternally watching her figure, should have to pass up what were, to me, the very best foods.

My husband and I moved to Conway when we were in our late twenties, and I had the feeling that we were moving to a magical place of perpetual summer vacations, dominated by two very powerful old people. The reality of our own home and the arrival of our children brought the town into a more realistic focus for me, but ascending Pine Hill Road and entering Adie and Archie's house never ceased to make me feel I was still under a spell from childhood.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

We begin this new academic year with an unusual number of new faculty and staff members. Despite the state fiscal situation, we offer champagne wishes and caviar welcomes to:

Elizabeth Councilman, coordinator of the Municipal Management Institute. Liz comes to GCC from Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company, and will work 12 hours per week in the Division of Continuing Education offices.

Mared Alicea, staff assistant for financial aid and minority affairs. Mared was previously a career development counselor at Mass. Mutual Life Insurance Company, and she will divide her duties between the Financial Aid office and Admissions. She will be located in Student Services.

Mirrless Underwood, assistant academic dean, serving the Human/Social Services-Learning Center Cluster. Mirrless comes to GCC from Quinsigamond Community College.

New full-time English instructors **Joanne Hays**, who is returning to GCC, and **Faythe Turner**, previously at Nichols College.

New part-time instructors in the Humanities area: French instructor **Nicole Ball**, previously at Mount Holyoke; English instructors **Robin Dizard** and **Linda Kuziak**, previously at Western New England and Smith, respectively; and art instructor **Karen Domanieth**, who joins us from the University of Connecticut.

ON THE MOVE: are **Ira Rubenzahl**, who was named assistant academic dean of the Business-Math/Science-Nursing cluster; and **Joan Ibish**, who will serve as assistant academic dean of the Arts-Humanities-Language/Literature Cluster...Also, **Barbara McColgan**, who moves from director of the Learning Center to director of development under the college's reorganization plan; **Cameron Beavers**, who has been named director of grants and planning; **B.J. Roche**, who has been named director of public relations and marketing; **Larry Dean**, who has been named assistant dean of records and research; **Bob Schilling**, who has been named di-

rector of information systems.

GET WELL WISHES: to **Dave Harvey**, who had heart valve surgery this summer.

CALL HIM DOCTOR: Congrats to **Fred Agnir**, who received his doctorate this summer.

Security chief **Val Knowlton** finished second in her class at a four-week campus police refresher course conducted by the Criminal Justice Program at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Agawam. Congrats, Val!

Nancy Mayberry and **Louise Ellis** both received their associate degrees at commencement in June. Both were also recognized at the Honors Convivium in May, for graduating with a 3.5 or higher average.

Eileen F. Hayes, a member of the nursing faculty, received certification as a family nurse practitioner this spring. Her name has been added to the official listing of certified nurses maintained by the American Nurses' Association.

KUDOS to psych prof **David Johnson**, who was inducted into the Federation of Martial Arts Systems Black Belt Hall of Fame in Cleveland,

Ohio, this summer. Johnson is the chief instructor at the Tae Kwon Do Center in Greenfield.

Transfer coordinator **Rob Yacubian** has been elected to the Executive Board of the New England Transfer Articulation Association.

Charlie Carter and **Tom McKinley** attended the annual National Association of College and University Business Officers meeting in Philadelphia this July.

MacFan Club: **Bob Tracy**, **Tom Boisvert**, **Trudy Ricci**, and **Lee Webster** braved the wilds of downtown Boston to learn about new developments in the world of the Macintosh computer at the MacWorld Expo this August.

Debbie Robicheau became **Mrs. Richard Call** this July. Good wishes to you both!

IN PRINT: **Judith Kinley**, assistant professor in the Nursing Program published an article entitled "The Relationship of Nursing Diagnosis to Hospitalized Patients' Length of Stay in Selected DRGs: A Pilot Study," in *The Florida Nursing Review*.

--math class

Cont. from page 1.

"We try to get them to work in groups," says Rubenzahl, "to make math a social thing rather than a solitary activity."

Group building also removes the sense of competition from the classroom, and creates an environment where the class searches together for the solutions to problems.

"These games changed my attitude toward problem-solving," said one student after taking the course. "What starts out as a huge unsolvable problem can be worked out one step at a time if you don't get caught up in the initial hugeness of it all."

Other activities focus on the individual and his or her concept of math. Students are required to write their own "math autobiography," for example, in

which they can explore their past experiences with math and address their own feelings of math anxiety.

Benander says that the program has also resulted in a better student-teacher relationship.

"Students see us more as partners in learning, than as someone who is handing them truths to be memorized," she says.

One student who began at GCC with a math anxiety problem went on to earn the college's top math award last year. And the collective experiences of the three math teachers have made them "Math Ambassadors" who teach workshops and seminars for public school and college math teachers around New England.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Diana Hardina (GCC '87), has been named desktop publishing designer at Doherty-Tzoumas Marketing in Springfield. She will provide account service for clients as well as coordinate production of all desktop publishing functions. Diana learned her desktop publishing skills while studying graphic communications and working for the Learning Center.

Keith Clark (GCC '83, son of Sterling), is working as a videographer/editor for Channel 57 in Springfield. He is responsible for going on location and photographing material to be used in local programming, as well as editing video footage and maintaining equipment at the public television station. He joined WGBY as an intern, and became a full-time staff member in January, 1987.

Timothy P. Kelleher has joined the staff of Hilltop Realty of Turners Falls and South Deerfield.

Jill Tetreault is working as an ac-

count executive assistant of Gilmore and Watters Insurance Agency.

Sandy Staub (GCC '84), has received her law degree from Yale Law School. She will join the firm of Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas in Springfield as an associate.

Maria Burge (GCC '86), has been appointed to the Greenfield Police Department's detective bureau as a juvenile officer. Burge is a co-author of the "Law and Your Kids" column in The Recorder.

Michelle Grist, RN (GCC '88), has been selected as a member of the Rotary International's Group Study Exchange Program. She visited Norway this summer and learned more about the Norwegian mental health care system as part of her visit.

Daria Steward (GCC '88), graduated from the University of Massachusetts leisure services and resources department this spring. She is the founder and director of the community fitness

program at Holy Trinity School.

Kathleen (Stevens) Thomas (GCC '82), is now director of utilization management at St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center in Bryan, Texas. Thomas and her husband **Stephen** both earned their nursing degrees at GCC.

Nancy Sazama (GCC '89), recently received an Insurance Adviser's License for Property and Casualty. She is assistant vice president of Gilmore and Watters Insurance Agency of Greenfield.

And what's happening in YOUR life?

Send your alumni notes to: GCC Newsletter, Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield, MA 01301

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